

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

5 1. A method of reducing severity of a symptom of virus infection in an individual infected with a virus, comprising administering a composition comprising a polynucleotide comprising an immunostimulatory sequence (ISS) to said individual, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-C, G, pyrimidine, pyrimidine, C, G-3', wherein an antigen of the virus is not administered in conjunction with administration of said composition, and wherein said composition is administered in an amount
10 sufficient to reduce severity of a symptom of virus infection.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-purine, purine, C, G, pyrimidine, pyrimidine, C, G-3'.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the ISS comprises a sequence selected from the group consisting of 5'-AACGTTTCG-3', and 5'-GACGTTTCG-3'.

15 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-TGACTGTGAACGTTTCGAGATGA-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).

5. The method of claim 1, wherein the individual is a mammal.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein administration is at the site of infection.

20 7. A kit for use in ameliorating or preventing a symptom of virus infection in an individual infected with, exposed to or at risk of being exposed to a virus, comprising

a composition comprising a polynucleotide comprising an immunostimulatory sequence (ISS), wherein the ISS comprises the sequence 5'-C, G, pyrimidine, pyrimidine, C, G-3' and wherein the kit does not comprise an antigen of the virus;
25 and

instructions for administration of said composition to an individual infected with, exposed to or at risk of being exposed to the virus.

8. The method of claim 8, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence
5'-purine, purine, C, G, pyrimidine, pyrimidine, C, G-3'.

9. The method of claim 2, wherein the ISS comprises a sequence selected
from the group consisting of 5'-AACGTTCG-3', and 5'-GACGTTCG-3'.

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10. The method of claim 1, wherein the ISS comprises the sequence
5'-TGACTGTGAACGTTCGAGATGA-3' (SEQ ID NO:1).